

Reminder: Club Meeting 6th February, 7:30pm Sherwood Hotel



President's Message

Hasn't it been a hot one! The high temps and lack of rain has meant that our rivers are in a sorry state at the moment, I'm afraid. Still there has been some outstanding fishing to be had if you know where to look.

I had a stunning day on my own only last week where I managed a 5lb, 2x 6lb and a 9lb fish. Made me a very happy boy, I have to say. Get out there and enjoy team, just remember that if the water feels warm to the touch then the temperatures are probably too high for fish and they are already very stressed. Maybe leave them alone if so?

A magnificent weekend was had by all on the WAC1 comp. I'm still getting over my prolapsed disk, so couldn't walk far, but myself and The Don had a ball on Reid lake. That was until the wind screamed down the valley in the afternoon. The lake was low but the fishing was still great.

On the Sunday we all did our best to shake off our hangovers from the night before and got stuck into the working bee on the hut. One team got to work on the vegetation, mowing and generally getting the grounds

(continued on next page...)

Member Profile: Josh Atkins

by Conor O'Boyle

How long a WAC member? New member, joined up after the fly fishing course in October.

Nationality? Kiwi

How long fly fishing? This is my first season fly fishing. I had a go once on a backcountry rod & rifle mission with my old man last season.

Brown or bow (or other)? I love fishing rainbows, obviously as I've had a lot more success with them this season. I've found them a really fun fish to chase. For the challenge and reward, you can't seem to beat the satisfaction of outsmarting a brown.

River or lake (or other)? Rivers all day. flowing water, surrounding mountains. The harder to get too, or bigger the mission the better.

Favorite method (dry, nymph, streamers, etc)? Dry dropper method is my favourite for sure. fishing out the ends of rifles and spotting fish feeding.

Favorite pattern? I'm no expert and still learning about the entomology side of things. I loved using a royal wolf as an indicator, followed by gold tungsten hare and copper. I've had some great rises to the dry in the backcountry with the golden hare and copper being the most deadly.

Favorite weapon? Since breaking my first rod, I have moved into the 5wt Airflo Blade. Took some getting used to, but now, with the feel it has - awesome power and accurate. It does the job.

Most memorable fish? Back Country rainbow, 8lb hen, which took me for quite the tiki tour down the river trying to land. An awesome weekend fishing where it all went right.

This season's goal? This season's goal was to land a rainbow, brown and salmon on the fly. All I need now is to tick off the salmon. I heard a certain stream fishes well right before the season ends. Haha!



Fishing Reports

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spic and span. What a great job they did!

Another team got to work on building our shower hut. Simon led the charge, a skilled builder with bags and bags of enthusiasm. What a magnificent job Simon and the team did!

At the time of writing this, the shower isn't quite up and running. We were trying to get away without a pressure pump to get the hot water heater to run. In testing, it turns out that we don't have enough pressure, so a pump will need to be added. It's been ordered and should be installed and functioning in the next couple of weeks. Watch this space!

Anyway, that's enough from me. I look forward to seeing you at the club meeting. Oh, and don't forget we have the club trip to Poolburn on February 23rd–25th. Clear your calendars, that's only a few weeks away! Club outings are the best way to meet your fellow members, enjoy the camaraderie, and learn from some of the best. Plus they're heaps of fun.

Tight lines,

Fraser Hocks

El Presidente, Wakatipu Anglers Club



relaxing, and we duly joined them.

A lovely time was had, with many stories and some good banter into the night. The President back on form too. Welcome back Sir!

Fishing Night and Day

by Danny Flynn

On a recent Friday I made my way to Diamond Creek to get some much needed peace after a hard week. Coincidentally, I was followed by Simon and my pal Ronan.

After a cold one and a chat we decided to hit the creek. Fishing it slow from the top, Ronan lost what sounded like something really big. Such was his luck for the night - a few more misses after that. I landed a sexy 3-pounder which satisfied my needs, and that was my allocation for the night.

The star of the show that night was Simon with his 4.5 lb brown - his first mouser. He was so pleased! I duly netted, photographed, and safely released the beast while trying not to become part of the food chain myself. HAVE YOU SEEN THE EELS IN THAT CREEK? With



Simon with a nice mouse eating brown.

the high banks and all? The evening concluded with Simon 2, Danny 1, and Ronan 0.

It was 2.30AM when I got into bed. I barley had my head down, when Conor was on the blower. Are ya right?! Tired as I was, up and out the gate with gusto, meeting Conor, JP, and Will over at Diamond Lake.

Weather perfect. Lake like a mirror. Myself and Will took one vessel, Conor and JP in the other. Fished and fished all over the lake with none to the net. Too hot maybe?

We hit the creek through to Lake Reid. Much fun was had navigating the narrow and sometimes hairy sections and finally out onto Lake Reid.

Of course, the weather had got up at this stage, making any attempts on this lake futile. Conor and Will refused to give up! Onwards towards the next creek which would ultimately lead down to the hut - passing some of our anglers en route was fun. Will, trying his damn hardest, and eventually hooking up a small brown. We cruised onwards through more hairy bits. The top of my new Scott rod was whipped out by an invasive branch, I suspect. I had broken the rod down as a precaution - lesson learned being: bring your rod sleeve!

Finally, landing at Diamond Creek, we found most of the troops



Fishing Reports

Ode to the Greenstone

by Don Wallace, 'The bard'

In 2017 we assembled in Fiordland National Park

Don, Les Graham and his eldest offspring, Clarke

Off through to Howden the grunt we had to make

Then on to McKellar hut it was a piece of cake

The valley of the Greenstone was looking very lush

But Contaminated by Bill with a mighty dose of thrush

He was a Southland farmer and came across as a frump

The sort of personality like that of Donald Trump

We sent him on his way and said we'd fish alone

We said we didn't want to listen to him moan and moan

Such people as Billy Thrush can spoil a fisherman's day

Those sort of people are better to stay away

The opening day dawned as clear as clear as clear

But it wasn't long before the wind had settled in to there

Fish were hooked and landed to make the adrenaline flow

Other's were lost again when the strike action was far too slow

A scotch on the riverbank and in the hut at night

Made the trip into the Greenstone it's usual delight

After a night of degustation the cards soon came out

All was left to do was for the losers to shout

Helicopters disturbed the peaceful day

Buzzing the valley and spoiling our play

What happened to the unwritten law

Opening week 'twas a closed chopper doo

Finally on walking out the rain it had to come

It wouldn't be Fiordland if we didn't wet our bum

So home to Queenstown to shower us all clean

That is how it happened to the 2017 Greenstone team

First Matuara Fish

by Graeme Fraser

The word was that the Mataura is full of brown trout, but they can be hard to catch. With this in mind I had low expectations being a novice at river fishing for the Otago vs. Wakatipu weekend in December.

Arriving late on the very warm and still Saturday afternoon I ventured solo down river from the Otago club hut and thrashed the water unsuccessfully until dusk. I saw a couple and tried a dry fly over a feeding fish, but to no avail.

Back at the hut for dinner the remaining crew reminisced on a successful day with many fish landed. I went out again in the evening with a couple of others and although I heard fish splashing about, none took my offering. So, it was true...plenty of fish but hard to catch...for a novice anyway.

The next morning I followed Tim Gibson, one of the best from Otago, up river from the hut and watched his technique. His approach was to



be very stealthy and move up river carefully and slowly, throwing his dry fly into every bit of likely water whether he had first spotted a fish or not. He taught me that there are many more fish than you see, proven by the number of takes he had. He also made more short casts than I would have, under the willow trees and up to river banks. Tim was happy to answer my many questions. So in that hour, I learned what might have otherwise taken several years of trial and error?

Tim watched me cast a few times and pointed out where to land the fly. Then, before leaving for home, he confidentially assured me that I would soon hook up as he directed me up to the next stretch of river.

Well Tim was right! In the next hour I had 3 nice fish on the shore, two unsighted fish took a deer hair dry and the 3rd, feeding beside a willow branch, ignored the deer hair, but decided a white parachute adams looked tasty! Can't wait to get down there again and 'thanks Tim' for the lesson!

Fishing Reports

What a season...

by Santillan de Pinto

I must admit I have been an arm-chair participant since John started collecting content for the club news-letter.



Not through lack of want, but lack of time.

Working in retail over Spring, through Christmas, and well into the peak season leaves me depleted. Come my weekend I've already got the car packed and ready to invest time on the river.

If I was to define my personality type, I would identify as an extroverted introvert.

It has been my solace and my meditation away from the hustle and bustle of

Queenstown. Whether I'm fishing solo, or fishing with mates - as long as I'm fishing, I'm happy.

I have loved this season far more than I am able to describe, and have had some truly epic days on the water.

I had several aims at the beginning of the season.

- Fish hard
- Catch a 10
- Catch a Brook Trout
- Fish with anglers who are better than myself
- Fish with mates
- Catch a Kingfish
- Multi-day excursions into the back-country
- Catch aesthetically beautiful fish

I have been more focused this season, and have approached my angling consciously and methodically.

I've researched topo maps, dug deep into the knowledge bank of the area, tied flies for the fisheries I've targeted, and, in essence, put my money where my mouth is, and got just got it done.

And boy, have I had a blast. That list is looking pretty good. I go back to work on my Monday more tired than my Friday

I'm not one to carry scales, but I reckon I got my 10 ;) Brookies? Check! Fishing with



anglers better than myself has been a blessing, and I recommend it to advance your angling skills. I don't want to sound conceited, however. "If you always do what you've always done, you'll only get what you already have". I started fly fishing late, so I've got some catching up to do.



I've loved fishing with mates and sharing memories. When I'm an old man and can't reach down to tie my boots I'll have solace in the time I've invested with my fishing buddies and the photos I will retire to relive these moments.

Kingfish? See you in February!!!

Multi-days in the back-country, check! Not as many as I hoped, but the season ain't over yet and the wheels



are in motion.

I love trout, have always loved trout. From catching them in blackberry infested waters back in Australia on light spin gear with my dad. I've marvelled at those spots, the variety of colours and how the river dictates the aesthetics of a trout.

I feel blessed this season.

I love our community and the support it affords.

So, its all a bit wordy so here's some photos.

Less Fluff, More Fish

By Chris Dore, *Fishing Guide & Certified Casting Instructor*

Top anglers catch more fish, across a wider range of situations. They get into position, and get their fly out there in front of fish quickly and without hassle. This is one of the reasons why they simply catch more fish.

The Scenario

Johnny Punter, upon being shown a feeding fish will saunter into position, after painstakingly dropping his pack and adjusting his waders, wiping his glasses clean and then proceeds to wrap his fly around his rod tip several times, while still flailing away false casting, peeling 10 inches of line from the reel every false cast... In case you're wondering, he did not catch that fish.

What Can You Do?

Create a pre-cast routine. It's that simple.

Advanced Archery Bowhunting guru, Simon Bullivant once advised me to create a 'shot sequence' when preparing to fire at a target. "Practice it often, cover the essentials, and make it instinctive, then you'll hit more targets."

I bark a lot of directions on the river, as any of my guiding clients will tell you. However one of the most important 'orders' is the

series of actions from the approach to the trout to the cast. Here's a sampler:

- Take a prominent marker so you know where the fish is from your casting position — usually a different position from where we initially see him... "two rod lengths out and half a rod length below that lowest willow branch," or "half a rod out from that boulder." (My 30' will differ from your 30' greatly, so if we talk in rod lengths then you can create a visual.
- Get down there ASAP and begin your approach. Don't delay.
- As you're moving into position, free your fly, get it on the water and ensure there's enough fly line outside of the rod tip so as not have the leader ride back up through the guides.
- Strip the line from your reel BEFORE you begin your cast. It pains me to see people strip line from their reel every false cast... apart from adding 15 false casts they often pull their rod hand/tip off track. The more time the line is in the air, the higher chance of fluffing things up.
- Check and reposition any hanging line between the reel and the first guide: if it's wrapped around your feet, or caught on a rock then you won't get far.
- Pick a target where you want your fly to land, focus on it, and trust yourself to pick up the line, and place it on your target.
- Finally catch that line beneath your trigger finger ASAP, and strip any slack line as it develops...

club OUTINGS

WAC 1 & Club Hut Working Bee—Good Show(er) Boys!



Resources & INFORMATION

Club Executives - 2018

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Club CALENDAR

FEBRUARY	sun	mon	tue	wed	thu	fri	sat
	28	29	30	31	1	2	3
	4	5	6 <small>Club Meeting Sherwood Hotel 7:30pm</small>	7	8	9	10
	11	12	13	14 <small>Valentines Day</small>	15	16	17
	18	19	20	21	22	23	24 <small>Poolburn Outing</small>
	25 <small>Poolburn Outing</small>	26	27	28	1	2	3

Web RESOURCES

Main site: <http://www.wakatipuanglersclub.co.nz/>

Club Calendar: http://www.wakatipuanglersclub.co.nz/uploads/1/9/9/7/19973001/wac_2017-_18_events_calendar.pdf (members only - you may have to enter your credentials)

Club forum: <http://bit.ly/2fz5wYQ> (members only - you may have to enter your credentials)